

## **Week 1– “God created you to draw near”**

The aim of this first study of the semester is to:

- Reconnect with your familia
- Talk about God’s story and how each of us fit into His story
- To communicate the gospel with an invitation to receive Christ
- Draw Near to Christ!

### **The Jesus Storybook Bible**

(God’s story, beginning with the Creation and Fall stories, will be read from up front out of the Jesus Storybook Bible (with visuals) before breaking off into familias. After the stories are read, the question that will be asked to the audience is: “After the fall of man, if you were God, what would **you** do?” (This will be discussed in your familia once you settle in and begin)

### **Bible Study –Genesis 1–3**

God created the whole earth. He created man perfectly, in His image. Adam and Eve, his perfect image bearers were tempted by the serpent to disobey God. They did disobey by eating fruit from the tree of good and evil. As a result of their sin, everything was broken; their relationship with God and relationship to everything He created was broken. A lie had come in to the world that would never leave. It would live on every human heart, whispering to everyone, “God doesn’t love me.”

#### **God’s Response**

If you were God, what would YOU have done next? How would you have responded to Adam and Eve after the fall? Why?

#### **Adam and Eve’s Response**

What thoughts do you think were behind Adam and Eve’s actions as they were being tempted?

Describe what you think their conversations might have been like just after the fall? How do you think they responded? What might they have wanted to do next?

#### **Your Response**

If YOU were Adam or Eve, what would YOU have done next? How would you have responded? Why?

### **Not the End of the story.....**

God still loved His now broken people and His broken creation too much to end the story right there. He had a plan that would restore all of it to perfection once again and make it new. The Bible is a collection of books containing many stories of God’s mighty acts toward fulfilling this plan. You and I are a part of that plan, that story. So what does this mean for you and for me?

## His Story is Our Story Too

Our very discussion tonight is part of the unfolding of His story and Him making His plan known to man. His plan is for us to know Him and to be made new. Here's how...

(Pass out and share the Knowing God Personally booklet. Read out loud while everyone follows. At the circle diagram, ask each person, "Which circle represents your life? Which one would you like to represent your life?" Lead them through the prayer.)

## Now that you have received Christ

(Have the following scripture references written on individual pieces of paper and hand them out to people in your familia. Go around and have each person read the verse on their piece of paper naming one thing that is true of a person who has received Christ). Before each verse is read repeat the phrase, "In Christ I am...."

New Creation (II Corinthians 5:17)

Friend of God (John 15:15)

A Child of God (John 1:12)

Co-Heir with Christ (Romans 8:17)

Completely Forgiven (Colossians 1:14)

Brought Near to God (Ephesians 2:13)

Received Eternal Life (John 5:24, I John 5:11-13)

## Conclusion

There are lots of stories in the Bible but all of them tell of this ONE STORY that we discussed tonight. Our story is part of His story of restoring things back to the way they were meant to be. Our sin and imperfection is not a reason to run and hide but to draw near to Him instead. So, that's where we are headed this semester....drawing near to Him. He has a loving plan to make all things right, including us. Therefore, **Draw Near** to Him!

**\*Leaders-Have the following verses read to the familia:**

**Hebrews 10:22** "Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

**Hebrews 4:14-16** "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Let us then draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need."

## Close in Prayer